

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-29, all of the claims in the verified translation of PCT/DE03/086923. Please also cancel the Article 19 claims 1-29 as set forth in the letter from KBA to the International Bureau of December 18, 2003. Please cancel claims 1-27 as set forth in the letter from KBA to the European Patent Office dated April 2, 2004. Further, please cancel claims 1-23 as set forth in the letter from KBA to the European Patent Office dated April 16, 2004. Please add new claims 30-69, as follows.

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

30. (New) A device for aligning sheets transversely to a sheet travel direction comprising:

- a sheet support including a side register mark;
- a sheet holding device positioned above said sheet support;
- at least first, second and third sheets on said sheet support;
- an effective sheet holding surface on said sheet holding device and having a longitudinal direction in the sheet travel direction and transverse direction, said longitudinal direction being greater than said transverse direction; and
- a suction roller, said suction roller forming said sheet holding device, said suction roller having a longitudinal axis extending in the sheet travel direction, said suction roller being supported for rotation about said longitudinal axis above said sheet support.

31. (New) The device of claim 30 further including first and second spaced lines defining a length of said longitudinal direction of said holding surface and extending transverse to the sheet travel direction, said first, second and third sheets being arranged between said first and second spaced lines.

32. (New) A device for aligning sheets transversely to a sheet travel direction comprising;

a sheet support including a side register mark;

a sheet transport suction roller positioned above said sheet support; and

means for rotating said sheet transport suction roller through one half a revolution for each sheet to be aligned against said side register mark.

33. (New) A device for aligning sheets transversely to a sheet travel direction comprising;

a sheet support including a side register mark;

a sheet transport suction roller positioned above said sheet support; and

a plurality of suction hole segments on said roller, each having a plurality of circumferentially spaced suction holes, each said suction hole segment being adapted to exert a suction pull on a separate sheet to be aligned.

34. (New) The device of claim 33 wherein there are two said suction hole segments.

35. (New) The device of claim 32 further including at least first and second sheets arranged one above the other on said sheet support.

36. (New) The device of claim 33 further including at least first and second sheets arranged one above the other on said sheet support.

37. (New) The device of claim 32 further including a suction roller longitudinal axis extending in the sheet travel direction.

38. (New) The device of claim 33 further including a suction roller longitudinal axis extending in the sheet travel direction.

39. (New) The device of claim 32 further including means supporting said suction roller for rotation.

40. (New) The device of claim 33 further including means supporting said suction roller for rotation.

41. (New) The device of claim 32 further including means supporting said suction roller above said sheet support.

42. (New) The device of claim 33 further including means supporting said suction roller above said sheet support.

43. (New) The device of claim 30 wherein a ratio of said sheet holding surface longitudinal direction to said sheet holding surface transverse direction is greater than 3.

44. (New) The device of claim 43 wherein said ratio is greater than 5.

45. (New) The device of claim 30 wherein said sheet support is a feed table.
46. (New) The device of claim 32 wherein said sheet support is a feed table.
47. (New) The device of claim 33 wherein said sheet support is a first table.
48. (New) The device of claim 30 wherein said suction roller has spaced segments with suction holes on a peripheral surface and alternating with spaced segments with no suction holes, and a stationary pipe supporting said suction roller for rotation, means supporting suction air to said stationary pipe, and a narrow suction slit on said stationary pipe and being alignable with said suction holes to define a narrow strip of said suction holes charged with suction.
49. (New) The device of claim 32 wherein said suction roller has spaced segments with suction holes on a peripheral surface and alternating with spaced segments with no suction holes, and a stationary pipe supporting said suction roller for rotation, means supporting suction air to said stationary pipe, and a narrow suction slit on said stationary pipe and being alignable with said suction holes to define a narrow stripe of said suction holes charged with suction.
50. (New) The device of claim 33 wherein said suction roller has spaced segments with suction holes on a peripheral surface and alternating with spaced segments with no suction holes, and a stationary pipe supporting said suction roller for rotation, means supporting suction air to said stationary pipe, and a narrow suction slit on said

stationary pipe and being alignable with said suction holes to define a narrow stripe of said suction holes charged with suction.

51. (New) The device of claim 33 further including a plurality of suction holes in said suction roller, means for supplying suction to said suction roller, and a suction slit mouthpiece supplying suction to said plurality of suction holes in a timed sequence.

52. (New) The device of claim 30 further including means for moving sheets from said sheet support in a direction of the sheet travel with a lateral offset.

53. (New) The device of claim 48 further including a tolerance strip defined by an edge of a strip entering said sheet support, said narrow suction strip being arranged between said tolerance strip and lateral offset edges of sheets lining said sheet support.

54. (New) The device of claim 49 further including a tolerance strip defined by an edge of a strip entering said sheet support, said narrow suction strip being arranged between said tolerance strip and lateral offset edges of sheets lining said sheet support.

55. (New) The device of claim 50 further including a tolerance strip defined by an edge of a strip entering said sheet support, said narrow suction strip being arranged between said tolerance strip and lateral offset edges of sheets lining said sheet support.

56. (New) The device of claim 32 further including at least three sheets on said sheet support.

57. (New) The device of claim 33 further including at least three sheets on said sheet support.
58. (New) The device of claim 30 wherein said first, second, and third sheets on said sheet support are positioned whereby a second sheet moves under a first sheet picked up by said suction roller.
59. (New) The device of claim 33 wherein said suction roller suction hole segments are diametrically opposite each other on said suction roller and are spaced by solid segments of said suction roller and having a smaller radius.
60. (New) The device of claim 30 further including a suction roller drive motor.
61. (New) The device of claim 32 further including a suction roller drive motor.
62. (New) The device of claim 33 further including a suction roller drive motor.
63. (New) The device of claim 30 further including means driving said suction roller, and including bevel drive gears and a drive shaft rotatably supported transverse to said suction roller and beneath said sheet support.
64. (New) The device of claim 32 further including means said suction roller, and including bevel gears and a shaft rotatably supported transverse to said suction roller and beneath said sheet support.

65. (New) The device of claim 33 further including means said suction roller, and including bevel gears and a shaft rotatably supported transverse to said suction roller and beneath said sheet support.

66. (New) The device of claim 30 further including a flexible shaft above said sheet support, said flexible shaft driving said suction roller for rotation.

67. (New) The device of claim 32 further including a flexible shaft above said sheet support, said flexible shaft driving said suction roller for rotation.

68. (New) The device of claim 33 further including a flexible shaft above said shaft support, said flexible shaft driving suction roller for rotation.

69. (New) A method for aligning sheets transversely to a sheet travel direction including;

- providing a sheet support;
- positioning sheet side register marks on said sheet support;
- arranging at least first, second and third sheets in a scaled manner on said sheet support in the sheet travel direction;
- providing a suction roller having a longitudinal axis;
- supporting said suction roller for rotation above said sheet support with said longitudinal axis extending in the sheet travel direction;
- grasping said first one of said sheets from above using suction said suction roller and moving said first sheet transversely to the sheet travel directions;
- concurrently supporting said second an of said sheets and transporting it beneath said first sheet being grasped by said suction roller; and

moving a previously aligned sheet in the sheet transport direction and transversely away from said sheet side register marks.